

MEMORY CIRCUIT FOR DISPLAY PANEL DRIVING AND DRIVING METHOD THEREOF

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a display memory device, and more particularly, to a circuit technology concerning the control of a data buffer for temporarily storing data which is transmitted from a memory cell array when an image is displayed by providing image data to a display panel.

Background Art

10 Recently, new flat panel display technologies replacing cathode ray tubes are adopted in portable communication apparatuses, notebooks, and mid or large terminals. Along those apparatuses, LCDs (liquid
15 crystal displays) are mostly used for monitors of the mid or large terminals such as notebooks. LCD monitors are competitive in terms of resolution, color display, image quality, and low power consumption, compared to other display devices. Meanwhile, organic electroluminescence devices (hereinafter, referred to as "organic EL") exhibit superior characteristics in
20 brightness, angle of view, response speed, and power consumption, compared to TFT-LCDs. In particular, the fast response speed of the organic EL than other display devices is suitable for IMT-2000 mobile phones in which motion picture is necessary. Since the organic EL uses organic compounds having a superior fluorescence or phosphorescence
25 efficiency, it is easy to develop a substance having various band gaps through design and synthesis of molecules. Also, since it has a low manufacturing temperature, the organic EL can be manufactured on not only glass but also a plastic substrate.

30 In order to display image data on a display panel to which a variety of technologies are applied, pixels arranged in vertical and horizontal directions of the display panel are driven by using image data. In the panel,

the horizontal length is usually greater than the vertical length so that a user can feel comfortable. However, in some cases such as a display window of a mobile phone, the vertical length is greater than the horizontal length. A circuit driving the pixels of a panel in the horizontal direction is characteristically referred to as a gate driving circuit since the circuit is usually connected to gates of transistors constituting the pixels. In contrast, a circuit driving the pixels in the vertical direction is referred to as a source driving circuit since the circuit is usually connected to sources of pixel transistors. A portion driven by the gate driving circuit is usually used to select a pixel array in the horizontal direction while the source driving circuit is usually used to access data of a selected pixel.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a typical display panel driving system. Referring to FIG. 1, the operation of a typical display panel driving system 100 is described.

Image data to be transferred to a display panel 110 is stored in a memory cell array portion 140 in the form of binary information. The data is written in the memory cell array portion 140 through a logic control portion 170 and a memory glue logic 180 from the outside of a driving system shown in FIG. 1. The data read from the memory cell array portion 140 is transferred to a source data buffer 130 and temporarily stored therein and then transferred to the source driving circuit 120. A gate driving circuit 150, a gate control circuit 160 and the data transferred to the source driving circuit 120 finally drive pixels of the display panels 110 so that a user can view a desired image. This conventional display driving system is generally constituted by using several semiconductor IC chips. However, with a recent trend that more number of functions are incorporated into a signal chip, the number of IC chips constituting the system is decreasing.

The way in which data is transferred from the memory cell array portion 140 to the source data buffer 130 is different from that of typical memory products, for example, a standard DRAM or SRAM. In the

standard DRAM or SRAM, only the number of columns required for a single cycle are selected by a column address via a column selection gate connected to one end of a bit line, and data is input and output through the gate. In the display memory product like the present invention, however, data of the entire columns connected to the memory cell array portion 140 are simultaneously selected for a single operation cycle through another additional selection gates. The selected data is temporarily stored in the source data buffer 130. At this time, since the source data buffer 130 made of hundreds through thousands of repetitious circuits are all enabled to operate, a large amount of current is consumed.

When current is consumed for such a short time in a semiconductor chip, many ill effects occur. A typical ill effect is a ground bounce phenomenon generated due to a peak current which makes operation of a circuit instable and delays operation time. As operation current flowing for a short time increases, that is, the current at a peak value increases, a voltage of a ground node increases proportionally. Since the above phenomenon is well known, a detailed description thereof will be omitted.

One of the conventional methods to solve the above peak current problem is to reduce a switching speed of an output circuit in a semiconductor memory product. The method is disclosed in an article entitled "A 21ns 32k×8 CMOS Static RAM with a Selectively Pumped P-well Array" (IEEE, J. of Solid-State Circuits, vol. SC-22 No. 5 Oct. 1987).

Also, a technology which enables a stable operation at a high frequency by providing a data bus sensing portion that is enabled with a delay time adjusted to vary by an operation mode according to a CAS latency information value, is disclosed in Korean Patent Publication No. 2001-0047531 (15 June 2001).

However, in the conventional technologies, since data of the entire columns are not simultaneously accessed, the problem due to the peak

current is not quite serious. In contrast, in the circuit exclusively designed for a display use, since data of the entire columns of the memory cell array portion are simultaneously transferred to the source data buffer, the problem due to the peak current becomes more serious.

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Disclosure of the Invention

To solve the above problems, it is an object of the present invention to provide a circuit driving method by which a peak current which may be generated when data is transferred in a source channel direction is minimized.

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It is another object of the present invention to provide a circuit which enables a stable operation and minimizes delay of a signal by minimizing an effect by the peak current.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide reliability of a display driving system using the circuit according to the present invention and stability of an image to be displayed, by the above driving method.

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To achieve the above objective, there is provided a memory device for driving a display panel according to the present invention includes a latch type memory cell array, pairs of bit line-bit bar lines connected to memory cells, first transfer gates connected to one end of the bit line-bit bar line pairs and switched to access the memory cells, column addresses to group the first transfer gates by unit of 2^n , wherein n is a positive integer including 0, and switch the grouped first transfer gates, second transfer gates connected to the other end of the bit line-bit bar line pairs and switched to read out the binary information stored in the memory cells, and source data buffers receiving data from the second transfer gates and temporarily storing the received data.

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Preferably, signals applied to switch the second transfer gates are divided into several groups and have different time delays. Also, signals to enable the source data buffers where data transferred by the second

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transfer gates are temporarily stored have different delay times.

Also, signals to simultaneously enable the second transfer gates and the source data buffers are divided into several groups and have different delay time.

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Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a typical display panel driving system;

FIG. 2 is a view illustrating a memory device for driving a display panel according to a first preferred embodiment of the present invention;

10 FIG. 3 is a view illustrating a memory device for driving a display panel according to a second preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a view illustrating a memory device for driving a display panel according to a third preferred embodiment of the present invention;

15 FIG. 5 is a graph showing the comparison result of simulation of source data buffer circuits having a simultaneous enable signal and a delayed enable signal; and

FIG. 6 is a view showing a method of generating a delayed enable signal.

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Best mode for carrying out the Invention

In the following description, the same reference numerals in the drawings indicate the same constituent elements.

25 FIG. 2 is a view illustrating a memory device for driving a display panel according to a first preferred embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 2, a memory device for driving a display panel according to a first preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a latch type memory cell array 100-10m for storing binary information, pairs of bit (B) line-bit bar (B') lines connected to memory cells, first transfer gates 210 connected to one end of the bit (B) line-bit bar (B') line pairs and
30 switched to write the binary information in the memory cells, column

selection signals Y0, Y1, ... using a column address to switch the first transfer gates by grouping unit of 2^n , wherein n is a positive integer including 0, second transfer gates 220 connected to the other end of the bit (B) line-bit bar (B') line pairs and switched to read the binary
5 information stored in the memory cells, and source data buffer circuits SB0-SBm receiving data from the memory cell array by the switching operation of the second transfer gates and storing the same.

The binary information to be transferred to the display panel 110 is initially stored in the memory cell arrays 100-10m. The information is
10 stored by the switching operation of the first transfer gates 210 through data lines D0-D7. Among the entire columns, only a part of the first transfer gates 210 are selected by a column address for a single operation cycle. The selection of a part of columns is made by the column address like the operation of a typical DRAM or SRAM. The stored binary
15 information is transferred to the source data buffers 130 through the second transfer gates 220. The transfer of the source data buffers 130 is made in the entire columns for a single operation cycle.

It is noted that the difference between the typical semiconductor memory device and the memory device for driving a display panel
20 according to the present invention lies in the presence of the second column selection gates and the source data buffers receiving data from the second column selection gates and their operations.

In the first preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. 2, each group of the second transfer gates 220 has a different delay
25 signal to reduce the peak current consumption. The data of the columns selected by signals SDE0-SDEn which are grouped and have different time delay is transferred to the source data buffers 130 and stored therein.

Thus, as the operation of the source data buffers 130 are delayed according to the delay operation of the second transfer gates 220, the
30 above-described peak current reduction effect is obtained so that consumption of current can be distributed.

FIG. 3 shows a memory device for driving a display panel according to a second preferred embodiment of the present invention. It is noted that the circuit shown in FIG. 3 is similar to the circuit shown in FIG. 2 in terms of a connection state, but they are different in the connection state of the source data buffers 130 and the second transfer gates 220. In the preferred embodiment of FIG. 3, the second transfer gates 220 transferring the information stored in the memory cell array 100-10m to the source data buffers 130 are simultaneously switched. Instead, enables signals SBE0-SBEn starting the operation of the source data buffers 130 are divided into several groups and have different time delays.

Accordingly, since the source data buffer 130 circuits start operations at different times, the current consumption due to the operation of the source data buffer 130 circuits is appropriately distributed so that the above-described peak current reduction effect can be obtained.

FIG. 4 shows a memory device for driving a display panel according to a third preferred embodiment of the present invention. It is noted that the circuit shown in FIG. 4 is similar to the circuits shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 in terms of a connection state, but they are different in the state of signals connected to the source data buffers 130 and the second transfer gates 220. In the preferred embodiment of FIG. 4, the second transfer gates 220 and the source data buffers 130 are divided into several groups and simultaneously switched by groups. Signals SDBE0-SDBEn enabling the respective groups have different time delays. Accordingly, since the source data buffers 130 circuits start operations at different times, the current consumption due to the operation of the source data buffers 130 circuits is appropriately distributed so that the above-described peak current reduction effect can be obtained.

It is easy to generate the enable signals used in the preferred embodiments of the present invention. The enable signals by which the output signals of the respective delay portions have appropriate time delays are generated by connecting several delay portions in series to the

0th delay signal that is an output signal generated from the source data buffer control portion 190 as shown in FIG. 6. These signals connected to the source data buffer enable signals shown in FIGS. 2 through 4 in a one-to-one correspondence.

5 The circuit generating a delay enable signal can be set up by using passive devices such as inverters, resistors and capacitors. Since the method of generating a delay signal is well known and is not the characteristic feature of the present invention, a detailed description thereof will be omitted.

10 To verify the effect of the present invention, a case in which the delay enable circuit operation and the source data buffer of the present invention shown in FIG. 3 are enabled together is compared and circuit simulated. A current waveform showing the result of the comparison and circuit simulation is shown in FIG. 5. In the case of circuit operation of
15 the present invention, it can be seen that the peak current value is reduced by 40% compared to a case in which the source data buffers are enabled together.

 While this invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those
20 skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

Industrial Applicability

25 As described above, in the operation of the source data buffer circuits according to the present invention, since consumption of current is distributed when the source data buffer circuits are enabled and start operation, the current value at a peak value is reduced.

 According to the circuit operation method of the present invention,
30 as the current at the peak value decreases, the ground voltage of the circuit becomes stable and accordingly the operation of the circuit and a

signal waveform are stable.

Furthermore, since the circuit ground voltage is stable, a reliable display panel driving system is provided.